

What is claimed is:

1. An implant, comprising:

a body portion positionable in the disc space between adjacent upper and lower vertebrae;

an upper member extending from said body portion along the body of said upper vertebra;

and

a lower member extending from said body portion along the body of said lower vertebra,

wherein said body portion, said upper member, and said lower member are each made from bone material.

2. The implant of claim 1, wherein said upper member and said lower member are

each flexible permitting movement of said upper member and said lower members in relation to said body portion.

3. The implant of claim 2, wherein said upper and lower members are made from at

least partially demineralized bone.

4. The implant of claim 2, wherein said upper and lower members are made from

completely demineralized bone.

5. The implant of claim 1, wherein said body portion includes an upper bearing surface and a lower bearing surface separated by a height, said height adapted to maintain spacing between the adjacent vertebrae.

6. The implant of claim 5, wherein each of said upper and lower bearing surfaces includes a bone engaging surface to inhibit expulsion of the implant from the disc space.

7. The implant of claim 1, wherein said body portion is a spinal fusion device and said body portion is adapted to maintain a desired spacing between the adjacent vertebrae.

8. The implant of claim 7, wherein said upper member and said lower member each have an opening formed therethrough to receive a fastener to secure the upper and lower member to the bodies of the upper and lower vertebrae, respectively.

9. The implant of claim 1, wherein said body portion, said upper member, and said lower member are formed of a single bone segment.

10. The implant of claim 1, wherein said body portion has a cavity allowing bone growth between the upper and lower vertebrae.

11. An implant, comprising:

a bone body extending between a first bearing surface and a second bearing surface; and  
an upper bone member extending from said body in a first direction and a lower bone member extending from said body in a second direction opposite said first direction, wherein said upper and lower bone members are at least partially demineralized.

12. The implant of claim 11, wherein said body is a ring shaped bone segment.

13. The implant of claim 11, wherein:

said first bearing surface is adapted to contact an endplate of an upper vertebral body and said second bearing surface is adapted to contact an endplate of an adjacent lower vertebral body; and

said upper bone member extends alongside said upper vertebral body and said lower bone member extends alongside said lower vertebral body.

14. The implant of claim 13, wherein said upper bone member and said lower bone member each have an opening formed therethrough to receive a fastener to secure the implant to the upper and lower vertebral bodies, respectively.

15. The implant of claim 11, wherein:

said bone body is positionable in the disc space between an upper vertebral body and a lower vertebral body; and

said upper and lower members act as a ligament extending between and connecting the upper vertebral body and the lower vertebral body.

16. The implant of claim 11, wherein said implant is formed of a single segment of bone.

17. A spinal fusion implant adapted for insertion into the space between adjacent first and second vertebral bodies, comprising:

a bone body having a first bearing surface for contacting an endplate of the first vertebral body and a second bearing surface for contacting an endplate of the second vertebral body; and

at least one flexible portion extending from the bone body for securement to the first and second vertebral bodies outside the disc space.

18. The spinal fusion implant of claim 17, wherein said at least one flexible portion includes a pair of flexible portions.

19. The spinal fusion implant of claim 18, wherein said flexible portions act as a ligament between said first and second vertebral bodies.

20. The spinal fusion implant of claim 18, wherein the implant has a leading end and an opposite trailing end, and said flexible portions are positioned adjacent said trailing end.

21. The implant of claim 17, wherein said implant is formed from a single segment of bone.

22. A method of preparing a bone implant, comprising:

providing a rigid bone segment having a body portion with an upper bearing surface and an opposite lower bearing surface, said rigid bone segment further including an upper flange member and an opposite lower flange member each extending from said body portion; and

at least partially demineralizing the upper and lower flange members to create a flexible upper flange member and a flexible lower flange member extending from the rigid body portion.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said at least partially demineralizing includes exposing said rigid upper flange member and said rigid lower flange member to a demineralizing fluid.

24. The method of claim 22, further including limiting contact of the body portion with the demineralizing fluid.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said limiting utilizes hydrostatic pressure to limit the movement of the demineralizing fluid into the body portion.

26. The method of claim 22, further including forming a bone engaging surface on the upper and lower bearing surfaces of the implant.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said bone engaging surface is configured to prevent movement of the implant.

28. The implant of claim 22, wherein the implant is formed from a single segment of bone.

29. A method of inserting an interbody fusion implant made of bone, comprising:  
providing an implant formed of bone and having a body portion with an upper bearing surface and opposite lower bearing surface, said rigid bone segment further including a flexible upper flange member and an opposite flexible lower flange member each extending from said body portion;

accessing the disc space between adjacent vertebrae;

inserting the body portion of the implant into the disc space;

securing the flexible upper flange member to the body of the upper vertebra; and

securing the flexible lower flange member to the body of the lower vertebra.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein:

securing the upper flexible member includes engaging a fastener to the body of the upper vertebra through an opening formed through the upper flexible member; and

securing the lower flexible member includes engaging a fastener to the body of the lower vertebra through an opening formed through the lower flexible member.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein accessing the disc space includes accessing the disc space via an anterior approach.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein accessing the disc space includes accessing the disc space via a posterior approach.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein accessing the disc space includes accessing the disc space between adjacent cervical vertebrae.

34. A method of preparing a bone implant, comprising:

obtaining a rigid bone segment; and

forming from said rigid bone segment an implant having a body portion with an upper bearing surface and opposite lower bearing surface, said rigid bone segment further including an

upper flange member and an opposite lower flange member each extending from said body portion.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising at least partially demineralizing the upper and lower flange members to create a flexible upper flange member and a flexible lower flange member extending from the body portion.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein:  
the upper and lower bearing surfaces each extend between a leading end and a trailing end of the body portion; and  
the upper and lower flange members each extend from the body portion at the trailing end.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the upper and lower bearing surfaces extend substantially parallel to one another.

38. The method of claim 34, further including forming a bone engaging surface on the upper and lower bearing surfaces of the body portion.

39. The implant of claim 34, wherein the implant is formed from a single segment of bone.